

# WIGAN ATHLETIC



Official Programme

20p

Saturday, 8th March, 1980 — Kick-off 3.00 p.m.  
FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

WIGAN ATHLETIC  
- v -  
NEWPORT  
COUNTY

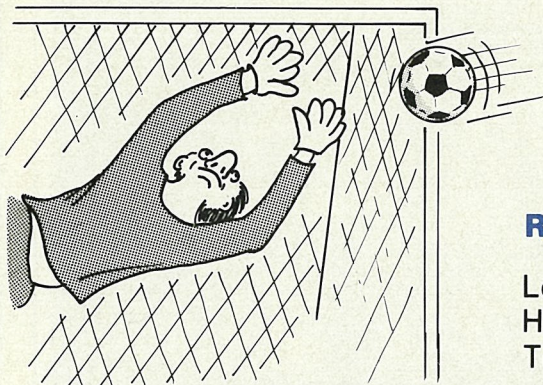


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# Club Directory

WIGAN ATHLETIC  
ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL  
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REGISTERED OFFICE:  
SPRINGFIELD PARK, WIGAN.  
Telephone Wigan 44433.

CHAIRMAN:  
Mr. A.O. Horrocks.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:  
Mr. A. Muir.

DIRECTORS:  
Messrs. J.H. Farrimond,  
A. Eckersley, G.D. Gorner,  
B. Connolly.

TEAM MANAGER:  
Mr. I.M. McNeill.

COMMERCIAL MANAGER:  
Mr. J.T. Sudworth.

HON. MEDICAL OFFICERS:  
Dr. G. Menon, Dr. S.K. Ahuja,  
and Dr. J. Coffey.

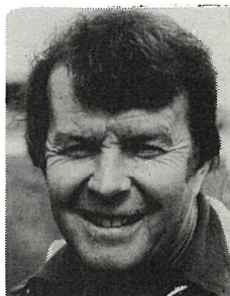
# Match Ball Donors

The Wigan Athletic  
Football Club wishes to  
thank all those who have  
donated match balls. Any  
individual or organisation  
wishing to join the scheme  
is asked to contact the  
Commercial Manager,  
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(Telephone: Wigan 43067)

Our front page picture shows Tony Quinn  
hammering in a shot at the Everton goal.  
(Photograph by courtesy of the Evening  
Post & Chronicle).

# Personally Speaking

by Ian McNeill



A WARM welcome to  
Len Ashurst and his  
Newport County team.  
Len has done a  
magnificent job since  
he went to the Welsh  
Fourth Division side,  
and he has got them  
nicely placed for a  
promotion challenge.  
So far in three league  
meetings against them  
we have still to gain a  
point. I hope that this  
will be rectified today.

## Aldershot

Lots of people were disappointed by our display in  
beating Aldershot 2 - 1 on Wednesday night. One  
thing that should not be faulted was the work-rate  
our lads put in. If I had cause to criticise it was the  
fact that we perhaps bunched a bit in midfield. I  
would like to think we could win every match in  
style, but football is not a game like that, and the  
important thing from my point of view is the way the  
players kept battling when things were going  
wrong. Our game at Bradford a couple of weeks ago  
may have been the opposite, when we played really  
attractive football and finished up on the losing  
side. I am prepared to settle for a bit of both.

## Promotion Race

The promotion race is really hotting up now and  
perhaps it looks as if Huddersfield Town may join  
Walsall in being certainties for Division Three. That  
leaves a real battle for the third and fourth spots,  
and, with that in mind, a win today for either side  
will be an extremely important two points.

Enjoy today's game.

*Ian McNeill*

# WELCOME TO



**NEWPORT COUNTY FOOTBALL CLUB 1979/80** — (left to right) **Back Row:** Jimmy Goodfellow (Trainer/Coach), Paul Walsh, Richard Walden, Keith Oakes, Shane Carey, Gary Plumley, Mike Dowler, Grant Davies, John Reilish, Trevor Thompson (now with Lincoln City), Jeremy Brown, Len Ashurst (Manager). **Front Row:** John Aldridge, Nigel Vaughan, Steve Warriner, Tommy Tynan, Dave Bruton, Howard Goddard, Steve Lowndes, Kevin Moore, Neil Bailey.



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# NEWPORT COUNTY

WE ARE pleased to welcome the directors, staff, players and supporters of the Newport County Football Club to Springfield Park for what promises to be one of our most competitive home fixtures of the 1979-1980 campaign. Currently holding on to a very creditable fifth position in the league table, "The Ironsides" are making a bold bid to move out of the Fourth Division for the first time since 1962.

Last season the men from Somerton Park achieved eighth position in the final league placings, and this season have already served notice of their intention to be there or thereabouts when the promotion stakes are decided at the season's end. Indeed, one record which "The Ironsides" can boast is that of all the clubs played since Wigan Athletic joined the Football League only Newport County have the distinction of not having conceded a point to Ian McNeill's team. Wigan supporters can argue all they like about "ifs and buts", but the fact remains that prior to today's game Newport County have registered three wins in three league games with a goal tally of eight for and five against. Time will tell whether the "jinx" is to be laid today and whether it is the Newport County side that strengthens its position at the top of the league or the Wigan Athletic team that makes up lost ground on the clubs ahead of them in this season's struggle for promotion.

Without a doubt one of the main reasons for Newport County's consistently good performance over the past two seasons has been the very talented managerial ability of Mr. Len Ashurst. A man who has sampled the "ups and downs" of football life, Len's

character and attitude shine out like bright beacons in what is sometimes a very dark world of football. When success eventually comes his way it will be fully deserved.

Life has never been easy for those who have piloted the Newport County "boat" through often stormy seas in their sixty years of existence, but on our two visits to Somerton Park we have been very impressed by the people we have met and the warmth of their welcome. We hope that we can today return their hospitality in full measure and sincerely wish the Newport County Football Club well for the future.

Original members of the Third Division of the Football League, Newport County can boast of a Third Division (South) Championship in 1938 - 1939, one season at Second Division level in 1946 - 1947, and an excursion into the Fifth Round of the F. A. Cup in 1948 - 1949, as highspots. In recent times, in spite of tremendous efforts, the club has not been able to quite make the final step from the Fourth to the Third Division, but it can only be a matter of time before "The Ironsides" give their fans cause for celebration.

The record attendance of 24,268 at Somerton Park was for a Third Division (South) game against Cardiff City in October 1937. Record receipts of £14,904 were registered for a Third Round F. A. Cup game against West Ham United in January 1979.

Welcome then to our friends from Somerton Park. We trust you will enjoy your visit to the North-West and that the entertainment value of today's game will be such that your journey home tonight will not seem too demanding.



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## Commercial Chatter

SOME LITTLE while ago I mentioned a meeting which was being held at Port Vale to discuss, among other items, sponsorship and advertising on playing strips. The meeting duly took place and representatives drawn from the North-West's Third and Fourth Division clubs took part in lively and productive discussions. As a direct consequence, a sub-committee was formed to look into the possibility of negotiating a "regional" scheme which might appeal to a large multi-national or national organisation interested in having its name displayed on team shirts. Discussions are continuing and a further meeting of Commercial Managers will take place at Chester on Wednesday, 19th March. At this meeting other possible group ventures will be discussed and also down for discussion are items relating to lotteries and programme production. Such discussions with our colleagues can only benefit all concerned, and, when any positive developments take place, information will be supplied through this column.

We are currently finalising our plans for the restructuring of our rub-off lottery ticket and we are confident that come Lottery No. 25, dated 24th

May, but on sale from the end of April, we will be strengthening our position still further on the sales' front. Without disclosing too many details, our new ticket will boast two equally balanced games, plus the £1000 Jackpot Draw facility available on our current ticket. With a better prize-structure, a revised visual presentation and back-up sales' promotion items, we anticipate real growth in the size of the Support for Soccer Society's donations to the Wigan Athletic Football Club in the next financial year.

Reorganisation of our courier service is now almost complete, and with our office administration becoming that little more sophisticated, we hope we have laid solid foundations for the immediate future. As ever, any loyal supporter who feels that he or she can operate an agency on our behalf in a factory or on a large housing estate is asked to contact the office today and sign-up for duty. With your help we can build an even better and stronger Wigan Athletic.

Since Christmas we have had so few home games that the progress of the Soccer Shop has been slowed

down somewhat, so perhaps it is worth a reminder that we have a good variety of souvenirs available for purchase. The Club shop is open before, during and after every first team "home" fixture and, during the week, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. each day. Why not pop along and have a word with Helen or Merle who will be delighted to show you the range of goods on offer. Wear your colours with pride.

Finally, I would like to thank our old friend Jack Lowe from Associated Tyre Specialists, 98 Warrington Road, Newtown (telephone Wigan 42017 and 42442) for his kind donation of today's match-ball. Today is something of a special occasion for Jack, as he has as his guest an old wartime buddy, Stan Skuse from Newport. We hope that both Jack and Stan have a great day together, and regardless of the result several happy hours reminiscing about a friendship which has stood the test of time.

Enjoy today's game.  
Jack Sudworth  
(Commercial Manager)

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# Lancashire League Scene

by Fred Eyre

A FRIENDLY match eighteen months ago away at Cheshire League side Marine could be the reason why the career of George McAllister has been given fresh impetus in the last few weeks, for it was in that seemingly unimportant friendly match, arranged specifically to give players training at the club at the time, but not playing in the team, a chance to show what they could do. George McAllister, a young Scot from Skelmersdale, was the youngest of these players and the game turned out to be a little more competitive than I had thought, and I was a little reluctant to put George into what was developing into a tough game. However, I had promised everybody a game and I always try to keep my promises, so even though George had said he was a mid-field player I decided to put him on as a sweeper alongside Nigel Hart and Pop

Freeman, and hoped they would help him through.

He surprised me by the sure way he tackled the job and although he eventually played fifteen games for me later on in the season, they were all in midfield. He did well in the Youth Cup team this season and also played reasonably well in the Reserve side in midfield. However, due to the departure of Mark Jones and Nigel Hart, plus the retirement of Ian Gillibrand, it was necessary for me to produce another central defender, so with the Marine game in mind I decided to give George a run there, especially as he had grown bigger and much stronger in the ensuing eighteen months. His form in this position has been really outstanding and he now looks such an exciting prospect that I am confident that there is a really big future ahead of him.

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I.A.T.A.





# Player Profile



## DAVID McMULLAN (Midfield)

DAVID McMULLAN was born in Denny, which is situated some twenty miles north of Glasgow. He received his early education at St. Patrick's Primary School, and went on from there to St. Modan's High School, Stirling, where he represented his school at volley ball, basket-ball, rugby and football. David captained the football team for three years, but only gained his first medal in his last game for his school, just two days before leaving school.

At sixteen years of age, he joined Cumbernauld United, the Junior Club from which Kenny Dalglish joined Celtic, but continued to play for a local Larbert side, Tryst Youth Club, for a little while. Young McMullan gained regional representative honours with Stirlingshire Select Under-18 teams, and played for Cumbernauld United for one and a half seasons before joining Wigan Athletic. His employment since

the time he left school was with Wimpey Asphalt as a laboratory technician in connection with quarry road-surfacing.

One interesting piece of background information is that his grandfather's brother was the legendary Jimmy McMullan, who captained the famous Scottish "Wembley Wizards" in 1928, when Scotland defeated England 5 - 1 at Wembley.

A keen golfer and snooker player in his spare time, Dave McMullan began his career at Wigan in the best possible way, scoring for the Reserves against Chester. After being selected as substitute against Aldershot, it can only be a very short time before the quiet, but confident youngster makes his debut in League Football. He has already been described by Ian McNeill as a potential "second Alan Ball". Time will tell if such a positive prediction is justified, but Wigan fans are eager to run their critical gaze over the latest recruit from north of the border. Nothing is more certain, however, that if he displays the skill and industry which is reputed to be the basis of his game, then young David McMullan will be given a very warm welcome indeed.

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# CORRIGAN

Photographs by courtesy of the Wigan Observer.



ABOVE:  
Frank Corrigan blasts a shot at the  
Bradford City goal.

TOP RIGHT:  
Frank Corrigan moves in to  
challenge the Everton goalkeeper.

BOT  
Fran  
Ports

# Springfield Spotlight



# COMPETES



TOM RIGHT:  
k Corrigan tangles with the  
smooth defence.





NEW AND REBUILT

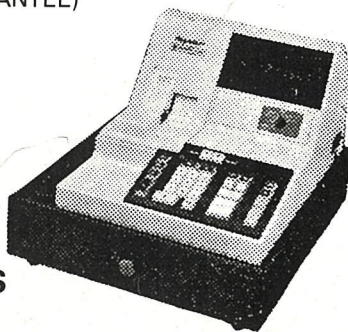
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# Down Memory Lane

by Harold Ashurst

"SUNSHINE and blue sky — that was the only thing to cheer up spectators on Saturday. The football left them cold and there was only a handful of spectators to see Wigan Athletic deservedly beaten by South Liverpool." That was the opening paragraph of a match report in the Wigan Observer dated March 8th, 1957.

The "handful of spectators" was a crowd of 1,500 who witnessed South Liverpool gain their first ever victory over Latics and the Observer continued: "The display can be written down as Athletic's worst of the season and the most disappointing feature of Wigan's play was the lack-lustre showing up front by Wigan's forwards who, if they had taken their chances, would surely have brought Wigan a handsome victory." The crowd had to wait nearly eighty minutes for a goal to be scored — and then it was the visitors who scored it — but the goal proved controversial.

Nuttall was the South Liverpool scorer but the crowd were incensed, believing

that Kenny, the visiting centre forward, had committed a foul against Latics centre half Parkin. The shouts appeared to be justified when a linesman flagged for an infringement but the referee ignored him and allowed the goal. Kenny was to score a second "goal" for South Liverpool minutes later but this time the referee spotted some kind of foul and the effort was disallowed.

Wigan had appeals for a penalty turned down late in the game when a shot from Billy McLean appeared to be handled by a defender but the referee again waved play on.

The Wigan team was: Lindsay, A. McLean, H. Parkinson, A. Parkinson, Parkin, Bramwell, Pritchard, B. Banks, Speakman, W. McLean, Lachlan.

South Liverpool lined up: Walker, Fazakerley, Adamson, Walsh, Wood, Watkin, Taylor, Jones, Nuttall, Kenny, Boydell.

Referee was Mr. H. Tongue, from Radcliffe.

## LATICS AWAY

**Torquay United F. C. Friday, 14th March, 1980. Kick-off 7.30 p.m.**  
Use A38 then A380 to Kings Kerswell. In 1m. at roundabout take first exit. In 1m. turn left A3022 S.P. Babbacombe. In 0.8m. turn left then right into Westhill Road and Warbro Road for Torquay United F.C



# Facts and Figures

Home fixtures in capitals.  
Wigan scores first.

Player scoring in bold.  
† Player substituted.

<sup>2</sup> Figure indicates no. of goals scored by player.  
\* In result column indicates opponents own goal.

DATE	FIXTURE	F	A	ATT.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Aug 11	Stockport FLC1	1	2	6,004	R Ward	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton <sup>1</sup>	Brownbill	Purdie	Urquhart
Aug 15	STOCKPORT FLC1	0	0	7,591	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Brownbill	Purdie	Moore
Aug 18	Darlington	2	2	2,063	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan <sup>1</sup>	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie <sup>1</sup>	Davids
Aug 22	HUDDERSFIELD	1	2	6,927	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore <sup>1</sup>	Purdie	Brownbill
Aug 25	Stockport County	2	1	3,837	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore <sup>1</sup>	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton <sup>1</sup>	Moore	Purdie	N Ward
Sep 1	TORQUAY UNITED	1	2	8,198	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore <sup>1</sup>	Purdie	Urquhart
Sep 8	Bournemouth	2	1	4,390	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	Hart	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Brownbill <sup>2</sup>
Sep 15	YORK CITY	2	5	5,990	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan <sup>1</sup>	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Purdie	Urquhart <sup>1</sup>
Sep 19	HARTLEPOOL	2	1	4,877	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton <sup>2</sup>	Purdie
Sep 22	Hereford United	1	2	3,891	Shyne	Gore	Hinnigan	Purdie	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright <sup>1</sup>	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Urquhart
Sep 29	BRADFORD CITY	4	1	8,009	Shyne	Gore <sup>1</sup>	Hinnigan <sup>1</sup>	Urquhart	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore <sup>1</sup>	Houghton <sup>1</sup>	Crompton
Oct 6	TORQUAY UNITED	0	3	6,541	Shyne	Gore	Hinnigan	Urquhart	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Crompton
Oct 9	Huddersfield Town	0	4	7,871	Brown	Gore	Hinnigan	Urquhart	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Methven
Oct 13	Doncaster Rovers	1	3	4,169	Brown	Machvor <sup>1</sup>	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Urquhart
Oct 20	LINCOLN CITY	2	1	5,454	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton <sup>1</sup>	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn
Oct 24	ROCHDALE	1	1	5,036	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton <sup>1</sup>	A Quinn <sup>1</sup>	Urquhart	Buckley
Oct 27	Newport County	2	3	4,910	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven <sup>1</sup>	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Buckley	A Quinn <sup>1</sup>	Urquhart	Smart
Nov 3	DARLINGTON	4	1	5,001	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan <sup>2</sup>	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn <sup>1</sup>	Urquhart	Buckley
Nov 6	Rochdale	2	0	2,936	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton <sup>1</sup>	A Quinn <sup>1</sup>	Urquhart	Brownbill
Nov 17	SCUNTHORPE	4	1	4,618	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan <sup>1</sup>	Gore <sup>1</sup>	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn <sup>1</sup>	Urquhart <sup>1</sup>	Moore
Nov 24	Blackpool F.A.C.1	1	1	11,277	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven <sup>1</sup>	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn	Urquhart	Moore
Nov 28	BLACKPOOL FAC1R	2	0	14,589	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore <sup>1</sup>	Methven	Davids	Corrigan <sup>1</sup>	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn	Urquhart	Moore
Dec 1	NORTHAMPTON	0	0	6,158	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn	Urquhart	Moore
Dec 8	Walsall	1	1	5,261	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn <sup>1</sup>	Urquhart	Moore
Dec 21	CREVE	2	0	4,316	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore <sup>1</sup>	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright <sup>1</sup>	Houghton	Quinn	Urquhart	Moore
Dec 26	Peterborough	2	1	3,312	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore <sup>1</sup>	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Moore	Quinn <sup>1</sup>	Urquhart	Crompton
Dec 29	STOCKPORT	3	1	6,847	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright <sup>2</sup>	Moore	Quinn <sup>1</sup>	Urquhart	Brownbill
Jan 5	Northwich V FAC2	2	2	5,249	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan <sup>1</sup>	Gore <sup>1</sup>	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton <sup>1</sup>	Quinn	Urquhart	Brownbill
Jan 7	NORTHWICH V FAC2R	1	0	11,298	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Quinn	Urquhart	Brownbill <sup>1</sup>
Jan 12	Portsmouth	1	1	15,625	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Quinn	Urquhart	Houghton <sup>1</sup>
Jan 14	Chelsea FAC3	1	0	22,300	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore <sup>1</sup>	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Brownbill	Urquhart	Quinn
Jan 26	Everton FAC4	0	0	51,863	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Brownbill	Urquhart	Quinn
Feb 2	York City	2	1	2,400	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan <sup>1</sup>	Wright	Houghton <sup>1</sup>	Brownbill	Urquhart	Quinn
Feb 6	BOURNEMOUTH	2	1	5,904	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan <sup>1</sup>	Wright <sup>1</sup>	Houghton <sup>1</sup>	Brownbill	Urquhart	Quinn
Feb 9	HEREFORD UNITED	1	1	6,481	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan <sup>1</sup>	Wright	Houghton	Brownbill	Urquhart	Quinn
Feb 16	Bradford City	1	2	6,127	Brown	Fretwell	Machvor	Gore	Methven	Davids	Quinn <sup>1</sup>	Wright	Houghton	Brownbill	Urquhart	Moore
Feb 29	Lincoln City	0	4	3,644	Brown	Machvor	Smart	Gore	Davids	Fretwell	Quinn	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	Brownbill
Mar 5	ALDRSHOT	2	1	5,018	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan <sup>1</sup>	Wright	Houghton <sup>1</sup>	Quinn	Urquhart	McMullan
Mar 8	NEWPORT COUNTY															
Mar 10	Tranmere Rovers															
Mar 14	Torquay United															
Mar 18	Halifax Town															
Mar 22	TRANMERE															
Mar 26	PORT VALE															
Mar 29	Scunthorpe United															
Apr 4	Crewe Alexandra															
Apr 5	PETERBOROUGH															
Apr 7	Port Vale															
Apr 12	HALIFAX TOWN															
Apr 15	Hartlepool United															
Apr 19	Northampton Town															
Apr 26	WALSALL															
May 3	Aldershot															

## Revised Lancashire Football Fixtures WIGAN ATHLETIC RESERVES

Mar. 7th	Tranmere R. Res.	A	To be arranged:	
Mar. 14th	Manchester C. 'A'	H	Rochdale	A
Mar. 22nd	Manchester C. 'A'	A	Carlisle U. Res.	A
Mar. 29th	Bradford C. Res.	H	Carlisle U. Res.	H
Apr. 5th	Bolton W. 'A'	H	Port Vale Res.	H
Apr. 12th	Burnley 'A'	A	Macclesfield T. Res.	A
Apr. 19th	Wrexham Res.	H	Crewe Alex. 'A'	A
Apr. 26th	Port Vale Res.	A		
May 3rd	Crewe Alex. 'A'	H		

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## DO YOU PLAY GAMES???

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# Fourth Division Focus

by Chris Gill



REPLACED by Ron Green, Walsall's second string goalkeeper Ian Turner, a £25,000 buy from Southampton last season, has joined Second Division Luton Town on a month's loan.

Walsall, the runaway Fourth Division leaders, now unbeaten in eighteen league games have been struck a severe blow with the loss for the next month of captain Dave Serella who has had an operation on his elbow bone.

York City's Peter Lorimer completed his stint with the Minstermen in an unhappy way, when he was sent off ten minutes from the end of the game with Tranmere Rovers for allegedly striking an opponent. Lorimer has now left York City and is bound for American League side Toronto Blizzards.

A new name appeared on the "Manager of the Month" award list this week when Northampton Town boss Clive Walker received the Division Four accolade for his side's recent unbeaten run.

Meetings between Walsall and Halifax Town this season have led to the disciplinary chiefs being overworked. Last Saturday's encounter between the two raised the number of bookings in their clashes this term to eleven!

Rochdale are almost clear of injuries for the first time since August. Eddie Cliff is already back and Eric Snookes is set for a return. Still out, however, is nippy winger Bobby Hoy with a broken bone and goalkeeper Andy Slack.

There was great cheer at Gresty Road eleven days ago when a win over Hereford United took Crewe Alexandra off the bottom of the table for the first time since 7th September.

Halifax Town's F. A. Cup run seems to have had a good spin off, since attendances at The Shay have been averaging around 3,105 this term compared with just 1,821 last season.

Aldershot's Joe Jopling has had his season cut short, having had an operation for a double hernia. It is expected that "The Shots" skipper will be out until the start of the next campaign.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR  
TABLE AS AT 6th MARCH, 1980.

	Home					Away				
	P	W	D	L	F A	P	W	D	L	F A Pts
Walsall	35	10	7	0	32 13	10	6	2	26	16 53
Huddersfield Town	34	12	2	2	47 13	7	6	5	28	27 48
Portsmouth	34	13	3	2	54 20	5	5	6	18	19 44
Bradford City	34	10	5	2	33 11	8	3	6	29	33 44
Newport County	33	11	5	2	34 19	6	1	8	24	20 40
Peterborough United	35	10	2	5	29 18	6	6	6	15	16 40
Lincoln City	33	10	6	1	32 10	3	4	9	14	25 36
Torquay United	32	11	3	2	36 15	2	7	7	17	29 36
Aldershot	33	9	4	4	27 14	5	3	8	19	21 35
Wigan Athletic	30	9	3	4	31 22	5	3	6	19	26 34
Northampton Town	34	12	2	2	27 12	1	6	11	14	41 34
Halifax Town	33	10	5	1	20 9	2	4	11	13	30 33
Doncaster Rovers	33	8	4	5	31 23	3	6	7	19	24 32
Bournemouth	34	6	6	5	22 18	3	8	6	17	20 32
Tranmere Rovers	33	8	1	7	26 18	4	6	7	15	23 31
Hartlepool United	32	8	5	4	29 22	3	3	9	16	23 30
Stockport County	33	6	6	4	20 21	4	3	10	13	33 29
Darlington	35	6	8	3	27 19	1	6	11	14	37 28
Port Vale	34	6	4	7	24 16	3	5	9	18	35 27
York City	35	7	5	6	30 26	2	4	11	22	40 27
Scunthorpe United	32	8	7	2	28 17	1	1	13	9	41 26
Hereford United	34	6	5	6	16 14	2	4	11	11	26 25
Crewe Alexandra	35	6	5	6	17 21	0	4	14	7	37 21
Rochdale	32	4	5	5	15 19	1	4	13	13	45 19

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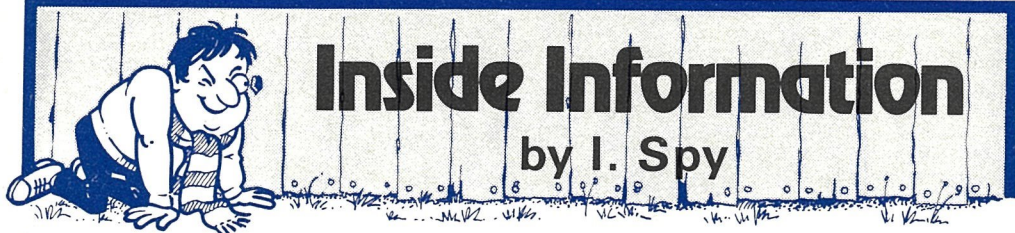
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SOIL samples have recently been taken from the playing area in an attempt to provide data for laboratory analysis prior to improvement work which is to be carried out in the close season. There is no truth in the rumour that Ian McNeill once served an apprenticeship on an off-shore oil rig.

Our match programme has recently been submitted to the Association of Commercial Managers for vetting in connection with 1979 - 1980 programme awards. Spectators will be notified of the outcome as and when the results are declared by the panel of judges drawn from printers, programme dealers, art specialists and commercial managers.

Manager, Ian McNeill will act as a judge for a beauty/personality contest to be held in conjunction with a British Rail Night to be held at Tiffany's in Wigan on 2nd April, 1980. Other club representatives will also attend as guests of British Rail.

Voting for the Annual Player-of-the-Year Award will take place on Easter Saturday, 5th April, when Wigan Athletic entertain Peterborough United. Details will be announced later.

Taking to the water shortly will be members of the backroom staff and their friends who hope to enjoy a Canal Cruise/Disco Evening on the barge "Claymore".

THE STAFF and committee of the club wish all members and supporters a very good afternoon and welcome to Springfield Park.

As you know our third round quiz contest is scheduled for tomorrow (Sunday) at mid-day and we are hoping for a big following to support our quiz lads. The winner of this match goes forward to play Wrexham or Port Vale in the quarter-final.

I would take this opportunity of listing our weekend entertainment on stage, as I am sure we have some first class artists coming along.

**Tonight - Sat., 8th Mar. - James Dee.**

**Tomorrow - Sun., 9th Mar. - Second Chance.**

**Saturday, 15th March - Al Bennett.**

**Sunday, 16th March - Tracey Kelly.**

**Saturday, 22nd March - Ricky Scott.**

**Sunday, 23rd March - Tony Dennis.**

Looking forward to Easter weekend, when on Easter Saturday we have "Pepper", while on East Sunday along with the Easter Bonnet parade we welcome the popular Jenny Jones.

Speaking of Easter, and, with regret, the end of another football season in sight, I would remind members that, whilst "subs" for 1980/81 are due at the end of April, anyone wishing to renew their membership which will carry through until April 30th, 1981, may do so at the home match with Peterborough United Easter Saturday, or at any subsequent home match.



I am pleased to say that we have managed to book the Scott Brennan Orchestra to appear at the club; and football matches permitting, we hope the date will be Wednesday, 7th May. More details and ticket arrangements later, but this will be another opportunity to enjoy the sound of the Big Band.

For now,  
Sincerely,  
Peter Woods.



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# A last word from the chairman . . .

I AM particularly pleased to welcome the Chairman, Directors, Staff and Supporters of the Newport County Football Club to Springfield Park for today's game. If he has been able to make the trip, I would also like to welcome the Club President Mr. Sid Jenkins, who on our two visits to Newport since our election to the Football League has impressed us with his wit and lively personality. To all of our visitors, a warm Wigan welcome and the sincerely expressed wish that today's game will not only be entertaining but will also be played in the right spirit.



The narrow victory over Aldershot on Wednesday evening was crucial when weighed against the recent results of our rivals in the promotion race. The tension generated by such a finely balanced game was evident not only on the field of play, but also in the stands and on the terraces. The patience of both players and spectators in such a tight situation was a revelation, and, in the end, the relief at gaining the required result was all too evident. Today we will be back to the nail-biting routine which we are certainly going to have to get used to in the final stages of our second season in League Football. It will take a sustained effort of the highest quality if promotion is to be achieved and our supporters can help make the task of our players that little bit easier by exercising their tolerance, patience and appreciation of the pressures which are slowly but surely building up as the season reaches its climax.

After today, we have three testing away games with Tranmere Rovers, Torquay United and Halifax Town. It may not be possible for our "away" following to cover all three games, but, whichever venue you do visit, make your presence felt in the best possible way and give our boys every encouragement.

Enjoy today's game.

Sincerely,

A. O. Horrocks.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. O. Horrocks', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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## Teams

**Wigan  
Athletic**  
Royal Blue  
& White Stripes

**Newport  
County**  
Amber &  
Black

John Brown	1	Gary Plumley
Dave Fretwell	2	Richard Walden
Maurice Whittle	3	John Relish
Tommy Gore	4	Dave Bruton
Colin Methven	5	Keith Oakes
Neil Davids	6	Grant Davies
Frank Corrigan	7	Nigel Vaughan
Jeff Wright	8	Steve Lowndes
Peter Houghton	9	Dave Gwyther
Tony Quinn	10	John Aldridge
George Urquhart	11	Kevin Moore
Dave McMullan	12	Tommy Tynan

## Officials

**Referee:**  
**Mr. P.J. Richardson**  
(Lincoln)

Started refereeing in the Lincolnshire League then graduated via Midland Counties and North Midlands Leagues to the Football League list. Was linesman for a U.E.F.A. Cup match in Italy in 1974, also the 1973/74 Texaco Cup Final.

**Linesmen:**  
**Red Flag**  
**Mr. A.R. Humpage**  
(Salop)  
**Yellow Flag**  
**Mr. E.J. McNamara**  
(Preston)

## Here next...

Wednesday, 26th March, 1980. Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

**WIGAN ATHLETIC v PORT VALE**

**Football League Division Four**